

In the Claims:

The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A control mechanism for a rotary hand tool having a generally cylindrical housing in which a drive motor is located, the housing having a generally tapered nose portion at an end from which a motor output shaft extends and a grip portion around which an operator can wrap a hand during operation of the tool and within which portion the motor is housed, said control mechanism being a part of the tool and located substantially within the housing thereof and comprising:

an electrical control circuit contained entirely within said housing, said circuit controlling the application of power to and the operation of the motor, including supplying current to the motor; and

a light touch switch having at least a first position and a second position coupled to said electrical control circuit for selectively enabling or disabling said control circuit to turn the motor on and off, wherein said motor current does not flow through said switch;

wherein said switch is disposed on the tapered nose portion of the rotary hand tool such that an operator can actuate said switch without altering the operator's grip on the tool.

2. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said switch is configured to be generally rectangular.

3. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said switch has a predetermined thickness.

4. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said first position disables said electrical control circuit and said second position enables said electrical control circuit.

5. (Previously presented) The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein the tapered nose portion on which said switch is disposed generally corresponds to a location of the operator's index finger when grasping the tool.

6. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a layer of flexible grip material surrounding at least a portion of the nose portion.

7. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a layer of grip material surrounding the portion of the nose portion in which said switch is disposed.

8. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 6 further comprising a layer of rubber surrounding the portion of the nose portion in which said switch is disposed.

9. (Previously presented) The control mechanism of claim 6 wherein said flexible grip material abuts said switch when said compressible material is compressed.

10. (Previously presented) Apparatus for selectively controlling power applied to and the operation of the motor of a rotary hand tool having a generally cylindrical housing that includes a generally tapered nose portion that has a gradually reduced circumference toward an end from which an output shaft extends, and a grip

portion around which an operator wraps a hand during operation of the tool, said apparatus comprising:

electrical control circuitry for controlling power, including motor current that is applied to the motor, said electrical circuitry being a part of the tool and located entirely within the housing;

a switch having a switch button and containing at least a pair of switch contacts that are selectively opened and closed responsive to actuation of said switch button, said switch being operatively connected to said control circuitry to control the operation of the motor, including the application of motor current to the motor, said switch being configured so that said motor current does not pass through the switch contacts during operation of the motor, said switch being a part of the tool and located substantially within the tapered nose portion thereof; and

a cavity disposed in the tapered nose portion of the tool that is configured to receive at least a portion of said switch and permit actuation of said switch button.

11. (Previously presented) Apparatus as defined in claim 10 further comprising a layer of grip material surrounding at least a portion of the grip portion in which said switch is located.

12. (Previously presented) Apparatus as defined in claim 10 wherein the outer surface of said switch button is generally coextensive with the outer surface of said nose portion.